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SUBJECT: KONY SEES HIS WIVES, AGREES TO MEET THE PRESS

REF: Khartoum 01780

¶1. (SBU) CG spoke with a journalist presently in Nbanga, a Sudanese village south of Maridi near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The journalist said that Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leader Joseph Kony has been in Nbanga for several days. The journalist thought that Kony had seen his mother and reported that yesterday Kony met with four of his wives who had arrived from Uganda. The local SPLM Commissioner initially sought to block the meeting unless the LRA returned six women abducted from the area in LRA raids before the peace talks began, but Police and Security Commissioner Daniel Awet intervened to ensure that Kony saw his wives.

¶2. (SBU) The journalist said that Kony is scheduled to meet a delegation of Acholi elders and church and civil society leaders from Northern Uganda on July 29. The source did not know if there had been any contact between LRA leaders and Ugandan Consul General Busho. Busho did not return to the Ugandan delegation so that he could travel to Nbanga with Government of southern Sudan Vice President Riak Machar. CG will seek out Busho when the latter returns to Juba on July 30.

STEINFELD